

CLAIMS

1 1. A television program distribution arrangement for use in connection with a server in a home area
2 network, the television program distribution arrangement being configured to distribute television
3 programming over a local video link, the television program distribution arrangement comprising:
4 A. a television programming information receiver module configured to receive television
5 programming information from a plurality of sources;
6 B. a television programming information assembler module configured to assemble said
7 television programming information as received by the television programming information
8 receiver module into a unitary set of channels for transmission over the local link; and
9 C. a control module configured to control the television programming information receiver
0 module and the television programming information assembler module.
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1 2. A television program distribution arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which one of said sources
2 provides television programming information over a unitary set of channels, the television
3 programming information assembler module being configured to remove at least some of the
4 television programming information from at least one of the channels and substitute television
5 programming information from another of said sources in the at least one of the channels.

1 3. A television programming information distribution arrangement as defined in claim 2 in which
2 the at least one of the channels is selectable in response to channel selection information from a user.

1 4. A television programming distribution arrangement as defined in claim 2 in which one of the
2 sources is a local programming source.

1 5. A television programming distribution arrangement as defined in claim 2 in which said one of said
2 sources comprises a cable television programming provider.

1 6. A television programming distribution arrangement as defined in claim 2 in which said one of said
2 sources comprises a satellite television programming provider.

1 7. A television programming distribution arrangement as defined in claim 2 in which said other of
2 said sources comprises a pre-recorded television programming information source.

1 8. A television programming distribution arrangement as defined in claim 7 in which said pre-
2 recorded television programming information source comprises a video cassette recorder.

1 9. A television programming distribution arrangement as defined in claim 7 in which said pre-
2 recorded television programming information source comprises a digital video disk.

1 10. A television program distribution arrangement as defined in claim 1 further comprising a
2 television programming information storage module, the control module being further configured
3 to selectively enable television programming information received by said television programming
4 information receiver module from one of said sources to be stored in the television programming information
5 storage module, and thereafter retrieved from the television programming information storage module and provided to the television programming information assembler module for use

7 by the television programming information receiver module in assembling the television
8 programming information.

1 11. A method of controlling a server in a home area network to provide television programming
2 information over a local video link, the method comprising:

3 A. a television programming information receiving step of receiving television programming
4 information from a plurality of sources;

5 B. a television programming information assembling step of assembling said television
6 programming information as received by the television programming information receiver
7 module into a unitary set of channels for transmission over the local link.

1 12. A method as defined in claim 11 in which one of said sources provides television programming
2 information over a unitary set of channels, the television programming information assembling step
3 including the steps of removing at least some of the television programming information from at
4 least one of the channels and substituting television programming information from another of said
5 sources in the at least one of the channels.

1 13. A method as defined in claim 12 in which the at least one of the channels is selectable in
2 response to channel selection information from a user, the television programming information
3 assembling step including the steps of receiving the channel selection information and using the
4 channel selection information in assembling the television programming information.

1 14. A method as defined in claim 12 in which one of the sources is a local programming source.

1 15. A method as defined in claim 12 in which said one of said sources comprises a cable television
2 programming provider.

1 16. A method as defined in claim 12 in which said one of said sources comprises a satellite television
2 programming provider.

1 17. A method as defined in claim 12 in which said other of said sources comprises a pre-recorded
2 television programming information source.

1 18. A method as defined in claim 17 in which said pre-recorded television programming information
2 source comprises a video cassette recorder.

1 19. A method as defined in claim 17 in which said pre-recorded television programming information
2 source comprises a digital video disk.

1 20. A method as defined in claim 11 including
2 A. a television program information storage step of selectively storing television programming
3 information received by said television programming information receiver module from one
4 of said sources in a television programming information storage module, and
5 B. a television program information retrieval step of retrieving previously-recorded television
6 programming information from the television programming information storage module for

7 use in assembling the television programming information during the television
8 programming information assembling step.

1 21. A computer program product for use in connection with a programmable device to provide a
2 television program distribution arrangement for use in connection with a server in a home area
3 network, the television program distribution arrangement being configured to distribute television
4 programming over a local video link, the computer program product comprising a device readable
5 medium having encoded thereon:

6 A. a television programming information receiver module configured to enable the device to
7 receive television programming information from a plurality of sources;

8 B. a television programming information assembler module configured to enable the device to
9 assemble said television programming information as received by the television
10 programming information receiver module into a unitary set of channels for transmission
11 over the local link; and

12 C. a control module configured to enable the device to control the television programming
13 information receiver module and the television programming information assembler module.

1 22. A computer program product as defined in claim 21 in which one of said sources provides
2 television programming information over a unitary set of channels, the television programming
3 information assembler module being configured to enable the device to remove at least some of the
4 television programming information from at least one of the channels and substitute television
5 programming information from another of said sources in the at least one of the channels.

1 23. A computer program product as defined in claim 22 in which the at least one of the channels is
2 selectable in response to channel selection information from a user.

1 24. A computer program product as defined in claim 22 in which one of the sources is a local
2 programming source.

1 25. A computer program product as defined in claim 22 in which said one of said sources comprises
2 a cable television programming provider.

1 26. A computer program product as defined in claim 22 in which said one of said sources comprises
2 a satellite television programming provider.

1 27. A computer program product as defined in claim 22 in which said other of said sources comprises
2 a pre-recorded television programming information source.

1 28. A computer program product as defined in claim 27 in which said pre-recorded television
2 programming information source comprises a video cassette recorder.

1 29. A computer program product as defined in claim 27 in which said pre-recorded television
2 programming information source comprises a digital video disk.

1 30. A computer program product as defined in claim 21 further comprising a television programming
2 information storage module, the control module being further configured to enable the device to
3 selectively enable television programming information received by said television programming
4 information receiver module from one of said sources to be stored in the television programming
5 information storage module, and thereafter retrieved from the television programming information
6 storage module and provided to the television programming information assembler module for use
7 by the television programming information receiver module in assembling the television
8 programming information.